

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET - U.S.**

NOFORN

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the Third Gds Mecz Army

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 11 October 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 13 and 17 September 1955, the Apollensdorf engineer camp (3591) near Wittenberg was occupied by at least 800 soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets including some with bridge-building engineer insignia. Sixty to 70 trucks carrying TMP pontoons, 12 to 15 trucks with bridge-building material (planking) and 3 trucks, each with an assault boat, were seen in the installation. Four piles of planking and beams were for the first time again observed on the northern bank of the Elbe River, some 300 meters southwest of the southwest corner of the installation. Between 80 and 90 percent of the windows of the installation were lit at dusk. ¹ 25X1
2. On 13 and 14 September, the engineer camp on the Klein Kuehnau - Aken road on either side of Hirschleckerdamm, appeared to be occupied. A road which led from the main road toward southwest, about 1 kilometer west of Klein Kuehnau, was deeply rutted by tanks and trucks. A sentry, who wore black-bordered black epaulets, was seen at the junction of this road and the main road. Dirt roads and wood lanes on either side of the road to Aken were marked by signboards as restricted area (German and Cyrillic). Similar signboards were also observed on a macadamized road, which branched off toward the north some 4 kilometers west of Klein Kuehnau (Hirschleckerdamm). The following troops and vehicles were observed on this road: 1 tank truck, 1 truck with gasoline barrels, 1 empty truck, 1 driving school truck and 1 truck occupied by 15 soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets including some with engineer insignia (anchor). Another macadamized road, which was deeply rutted, branched off toward the north from a place some 500 meters east of the factory and on the eastern edge of Aken, at the western edge of the Loedderitz state forest. The Aken-Stautz road on the northern bank of the Elbe River was controlled by sentries with rifles. ²
3. On 14 September, the engineer camp and the training grounds southeast of Rossau were apparently occupied by an engineer unit. A wide concrete road, which formed a fork after approximately 2.5 kilometers, led from the west end of the camp toward the north. After the road fork, one road led toward the west and the other toward north-northeast as

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far as the Elbe River. The latter road was blocked, a short distance from the river, by a barrier and was guarded by a sentry wearing black-bordered black epaulets. Between 12 and 15 TMP and 2 to 3 N2P pontoons, as well as several piles of construction material were seen from the end of the road toward the north-northwest. Several soldiers did repair work on the pontoons. Many permanent buildings were seen.

4. On 16, 18 and 20 September, the barracks installation in Dessau-Rosslau was occupied by approximately 800 soldiers. Two to 6 T-34/85 tanks were being serviced in the installation. At about 0900 on the days mentioned, 4 to 6 T-34/85 tanks left the installation and went toward the wooded area near Luko for driving practices. ⁴
5. After 15 September, the barracks installation at Kochstedt (3241) near Dessau was again occupied by some 1,600 men. It is believed that the about 1,000 soldiers who had been stationed in the wood camp near Waldersee, had returned to the installation. On 17 September, soldiers were no longer observed in the camp near Waldersee. On 15, 19, and 26 September, 5 and 9 x 37-mm AA guns were seen in the Kochstedt kaserng. Intensive driving school practice with some 20 trucks was under way. ⁵
6. At about 1630 on 16 September, a troop train which consisted of 2 engines and 45 to 50 boxcars, was seen en route toward Oranienbaum. The boxcars were occupied by 1,500 to 1,600 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets and carried full field equipment. No equipment was observed on the train. ⁶
7. During the night of 24/25 September, a troop train with 12 x 37-mm AA guns, 30 trucks and 9 boxcars with personnel was loaded at the Dessau railroad station. The train left toward Rosslau at about 0830 on 25 September. Motor vehicle [redacted] were seen. ⁷
8. At about 1830 on 23 September, a train of 5 flatcars with sideracks carrying 40 factory-new (?) 160-mm mortars and 1 boxcar with personnel passed through the Zossen railroad station. The train came from the direction of Jueterbog and proceeded toward Koenigswusterhausen. ⁸
9. Between 22 and 27 September, the units from Werder-Markendorf near Jueterbog allegedly left by road toward Tiefenbrunn-Luedendorf. After 28 September, billeting equipment and ammunition were loaded at the Post Zinna railroad station and were shipped toward Wittenberg. ⁹
1. [redacted] Comment. Permanent occupation of the Apollenddorf engineer camp, presumably by an engineer regiment of GSFG. ^{25X1}
2. [redacted] Comment. The observations tend to indicate that the engineer camp north of the Klein Kuehnau (near Dessau) - Ake [redacted] camp. Available information indicates that during the [redacted] [redacted] the u/1 Engr Regt of GSFG from Bernburg was transferred [redacted] (Hirschleckerdamm). ^{25X1}

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3. [] Comment. According to observations during preceding years, the engineer unit in the engineer camp southeast of Rossau was the 36th Pon Bridge Regt from Magdeburg. 25X1
4. [] Comment. The rather light occupation of the Rossau kaserne indicates that the units of the 7th Gds Tank Div, which had been transferred to the Werder-Markendorf training grounds in April 1955, had not yet returned by 25 September. [] 25X1
The tanks which were observed in the installation presumably belonged to the u/i Tank Tng Bn of the 7th Gds Tank Div. 25X1
5. [] Comment. The units from the Kochstedt kaserne, which had bivouacked near the post presumably returned to the installation in about mid-September. 25X1
[] 25X1
6. [] Comment. The shipment was presumably dispatched in connection with the personnel exchange program. 25X1
7. [] Comment. [] this was probably a unit of the 62d AAA Div, presumably transferred to the Wustrow AAA firing range. 25X1
8. [] Comment. According to composition of shipment, equipment may have been turned in. On 22 and 23 September, [] 2 similar shipments, one of which came from Rathenow. These shipments went to Fuerstenwalde either via Frankfurt-border or via Frankfurt. The shipment mentioned in the present report may have been identical with one of these 2 mortar shipments. Fuerstenwalde as place of destination is indicated by another shipment of mortars, which were transferred from the Biesenthal equipment depot to the equipment depot of the GSFG in Fuerstenwalde. 25X1
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9. [] Comment. Units of the 7th Gds Tank Div probably returned to their posts around Dessau after about 22 September from their summer camps at Werder-Markendorf, where they had moved in April 1955. The return movement was presumably executed in connection with an exercise, which started in a westerly direction. AAA shipments from Kuestrin to Baruth on 16 and 17 September and from Wittenberg to Kuestrin on 26 September may have been connected with the exercise. [] 25X1
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